

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Attitudes Towards Political Problems	DATE DISTR.	30 April 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	4	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	<input type="text"/>	25X1

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I N D E X

THE SOVIET REGIME AND ITS LEADERS.2

242

SECRET

STATE	M	X#	ARMY	X#	NAVY	X#	AIR	X#	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

25X1

SECRET

25X1

-2-

POSITIVE SYMBOLS OF SOVIET SOCIETY	2
ELECTIONS	2
SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY	3
[REDACTED]	3
[REDACTED]	3
[REDACTED]	3
[REDACTED]	4

25X1

SOVIET REGIME AND ITS LEADERS

1. Although [REDACTED] heard complaints about the high prices of consumer goods and similar daily problems [REDACTED] never heard any Soviet express criticism directed against the regime. [REDACTED] there is little open discontent with their government among the Soviet people.
2. [REDACTED] only favorable comments about Stalin from [REDACTED] Soviet workers. [REDACTED] they feared that life in the Soviet Union could take a turn for the worse after Stalin dies. Lenin was also always praised in such phrases as "the savior of the Soviet people". [REDACTED] Soviet propaganda has developed such an aura of greatness about Stalin that he is probably approaching Lenin as a popular hero, although Lenin was undoubtedly a leader of far greater significance.

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25X1

25X1

POSITIVE SYMBOLS OF SOVIET SOCIETY

3. The Soviets often spoke with pride of the large construction projects which have been accomplished there, such as the river dams, hydroelectric works, and the buildings in Moscow. They also were favorably impressed with projects to control natural elements such as changing the course of rivers and irrigating the steppes, which have recently been announced.
4. Free medical care and equal rights for women were also aspects of Soviet society which apparently met with approval of the Soviet population. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Other developments considered as positive achievements [REDACTED] were the victory of the USSR in World War II and its postwar reconstruction. Also, there were some Soviets [REDACTED] who even believed in the truthfulness of Soviet claims to Soviet priority in fields of science and technology. These persons, who were young and well-educated, were proud of these achievements.

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ELECTIONS

5. [REDACTED] no recent governmental acts or decisions which aroused particular displeasure among the Soviet population except perhaps an incident which occurred in connection with the 1950 elections. A candidate for the Ostashkov constituency in the RSFSR, or Oblast, Soviet, was nominated who was entirely unknown to the local population. Many employees at the institute complained that this candidate could hardly have been nominated by popular agencies.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-3-

6. The Soviets apparently accepted their election system as entirely normal and believed it to be democratic. They evidently were convinced that these elections and their participation in these elections were important. Announcement of election returns created considerable excitement among the Soviet employees on Gorodomlya Island. In particular, every effort was made to complete as soon as possible the polling at local election points. Local election officials evidently strove to report 100% participation earlier than neighboring election districts.

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

7. [redacted] the attitudes [redacted]
[redacted] regarding international relations corresponded to the
official Soviet propaganda line. [redacted]
apparently all Soviets believed that the USSR was striving to further
the cause of peace [redacted]
[redacted] They believed, for example, that Gromyko's vetoes were
necessary [redacted]

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